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of many political thinkers, particularly of Locke and Hobbes through Hume and Blackstone to Burke and Adam Smith, in a critically historical vein, analyzing, criticising and comparing each in connection with the historical conditions of their periods. He follows the political theorists through the disputes concerning the relation of Church and State arising out of the principles of the Revolution of 1688 involving the doctrine of Divine Right and the repression of the Non-jurors, suggesting that "the State is built upon the consciences of men" (p. 89). England under the Georges is then characterized as steeped in political stagnation though, all the while, the current of thought was quietly running on. Hume "gave a new turn to speculation" (p. 143) and Burke marked the turning point between the old and new thinkers brought into being by the American War, the French Revolution and the English Industrial Revolution. "The ideas of Hume and Adam Smith shifted the whole perspective of men's minds" (p. 281) though conditions were ripe for the change, for "the movement for religious toleration . . . is in a real sense the parent" (p. 282) of that economic freedom stated by some writers as resulting when the state functions to defend its citizens, maintain justice among them and erect certain public works and institutions; by others, when its well-being is considered merely "in terms of the volume of trade," or Bentham's greatest happiness of the greatest number, with pleasure, in a high sense, as the supreme end of human life.

The several theories of government, such as the doctrine of consent, the social compact, individualism, enlightened selfishness, and so forth, are all incidentally considered in the phrases of the various political theorists—their incompleteness and their chaotic metaphysical basis pointed out.

The book is thus a history of political thought during an important period in the history of Anglo-Saxon development, and indicates the importance of the writings of the theorists in interpreting, affecting and even causing, the material reactions primarily considered history. It covers the field thoroughly though it is too small for the wealth of research and thoughts that fill its pages. Mr. Laski as thus forced to state, criticize and compare, in a form of close reasoning at times difficult to follow, and almost to suppress his own opinions. The subject treated, however, is well worth while from a strictly American point of view; the work is well done and the result well worth the required careful reading.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS. By J. FRANKLIN CROWELL. Preliminary Economic Studies of the War No. 25. New York: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. 1920. pp. xiv, 357.

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INTERNATIONAL LAW DOCUMENTS. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE. Washington, D. C.: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. For 1905, pp. 206; 1906, pp. 140; 1907, pp. 176; 1908, pp. 255; 1909, pp. 193; 1910, pp. 128; 1911, pp. 132; 1912, pp. 206; 1913, pp. 203; 1914, pp. 169; 1915, pp. 122; 1916, pp. 153.

THE CASE OF REQUISITION. By LESLIE SCOTT and ALFRED HILDESLEY. Oxford: THE CLARENDON PRESS. 1920. pp. xiv, 307.